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A NEW GENUS OF ERETHIZONTID RODENTS FROM THE COLHUEHUAPIAN OF PATAGONIA

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Completion of a monograph of the Deseadan rodents by Professor Albert E. Wood and myself, which includes incidental discussion of Colhuehuapian rodents, necessitates publication of this note. A full account of the new form will be given in a revision of the Colhuehuapian mammals now in preparation.

Material of this rodent is contained in the collections of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN), the Museo Municipal de Mar del Plata, the Muséum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle, The American Museum of Natural History and the Chicago Natural History Museum. For the privilege of examination and description, I am obliged to the authorities of these institutions, and in particular to Dr. J.-P. Lehman who was so kind as to forward specimens from Paris to Cambridge. For the opportunity of working in Buenos Aires and in Paris my thanks are due, respectively, to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and to the Carnegie Corporation.

Seven species of erethizontids have been described from the Colhuehuapian: *Eosteiromys homogenidens* Ameghino, *Steiromys pseudonectus* Bordas, *Steiromys segregatus* Ameghino, *Parasteiromys uniformis* Ameghino, *Steiromys axiculus* Ameghino, *Steiromys tabulatus* Ameghino and *Steiromys nectus* Ameghino. The first three of these seem to be synonymous. *Eosteiromys* is a valid genus with a non-molariform P^1 , distinct postorbital processes, and nasals very strongly convex both anteroposteriorly and transversely. "*Parasteiromys*" *uniformis*, as Wood and I point out, appears to be referable to *Steiromys*, and is the only representative of this genus in the fauna. The

last three species are indistinguishable, and *S. tabulatus* and *S. nectus* are hereby placed in the synonymy of *S. axiculus*. This species, which is clearly not referable to *Steiromys*, is the type of the new genus.

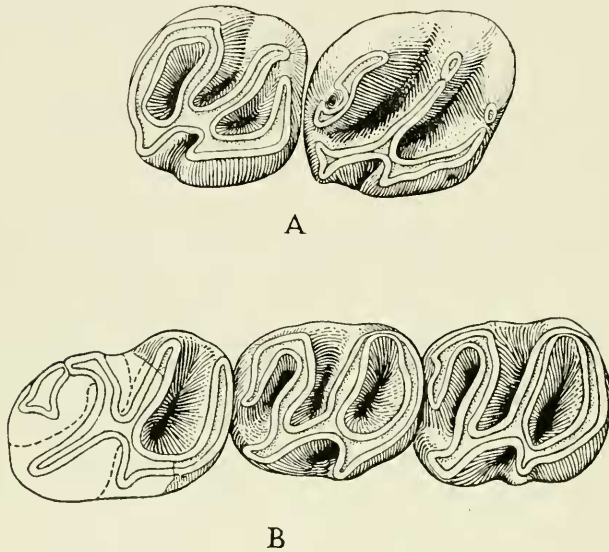


Figure 1. *Hypsosteiomys axiculus* Ameghino. A, $RP^1 - M^1$; B, $LP^4 - M^2$. X4.

HYPSONSTEIOMYS¹ gen. nov.

Type species:—*Steiromys axiculus* Ameghino 1902.

Distribution:—Colhuehuapian, Patagonia.

Diagnosis:—Cheek teeth with higher, more compressed lophs and lophids and deeper fossettes and fossettids than in other forms; P^1 not molariform, lacking metaloph; neoloph absent on M^{1-2} , present on M^3 , rudimentary on P^4 ; lophs and lophids showing marked tendency to irregular, very shallow notching;

¹ vPsi, on high, plus *Steiromys*, in allusion to the relative height of the molar crowns compared to those of other erethizontids.

lower I small, short, extending posteriorly to end of M_3 ; conspicuous depression in maxillary anterior to tooth row and medial to root of zygomia.

HYPSOSTEIROMYS AXICULUS Ameghino

Steiromys axiculus Ameghino 1902, p. 109.

Steiromys nectus Ameghino 1902, p. 109.

Steiromys tabulatus Ameghino 1902, pp. 109-110.

Stichomys regius? Bordas (non Ameghino) 1939, p. 428 fig. 9.

Type.—MACN no. A 52-171, fragment of right ramus with root of I, M_{1-3} (M_3 not fully erupted).

Type of S. nectus.—MACN no. A 52-177, fragment of right ramus with root of I, dm_4 , M_{1-2} (M_2 not fully erupted).

Lectotype of S. tabulatus.—MACN no. A 52-172, fragment of left ramus with $P_4 - M_3$, crushed alveolus of I. Two other syntypes, an upper and a lower incisor from different individuals (MACN no. A 52-180), are of very dubious reference.

Horizons and localities.—All specimens but one are from the Colhué-Huapí formation in the Barranca south of Lake Colhué-Huapí, Province of Chubut; the exception (Bordas 1939, MACN no. 11247) is from the Trelew formation in the South Barranca of the Chubut Valley at Gaiman, Province of Chubut.

Diagnosis.—As for the genus.

I append measurements of Ameghino's types, and drawings by Mrs. Dorothy Marsh of two specimens in the Muséum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle collection. Measurements in millimeters.

	I_1		dm_4		P_4		M_1		M_2		M_3	
	ap.	tr.	ap.	tr.	ap.	tr.	ap.	tr.	ap.	tr.	ap.	tr.
MACN no. A 52-171	—	$3.0 \pm$					5.6	4.4	5.7	4.8		
MACN A 52-177	—	2.4	7.3	3.5			5.0	4.3				
MACN A 52-172					7.1	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.7	4.6

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